

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE

March 1998

Resources expanded under compact

In a large-scale disaster, resources at the local and state level may be quickly exhausted, as Florida's beleaguered emergency services community experienced during Hurricane Andrew. The magnitude of destruction drove the point home that, in a large-scale disaster, aid needs to be mustered quickly to best serve affected localities within a state.

Shortly after Andrew, member states in the Southern Governors' Association (SGA) began to develop an interstate mutual aid agreement that would enable states to share both equipment and "people" resources. For the past few years, the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) has been working with SGA to make this idea a reality.

From this effort, the two groups forged the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). This historic agreement contains the legal and procedural guidelines through which states can work together to assist their localities during a major disaster.

Congress approved EMAC in 1996, making it the first national disaster-related compact to gain federal legislative approval since the Civil Defense and Disaster Compact of 1950. Membership in the compact is open to any state or territory that wishes to join.

VDES Assistant State Coordinator and EMAC board member George Foresman said, "Hurricane Andrew pointed out the fact that mobilizing and moving federal resources in the event of a disaster may take time. In a worst-case scenario, if we had a hurricane on the East Coast and an earthquake on the West Coast, would there be sufficient resources from the federal level to assist the affected states?

The fundamental advantage under EMAC is that it provides us with another avenue to get needed resources more quickly than may sometimes be possible from the federal level. Through this interstate sharing, we'll have another avenue for getting resources to stricken localities."

To tap into this aid, a state's legislature must approve the compact. At this point 20 states and one territory have passed

emergency management come in to help."

FEMA encourages states to enter into interstate agreements and has supported EMAC's development from the beginning. Director James Lee Witt addressed concerns that the compact might affect federal funding during a severe disaster.

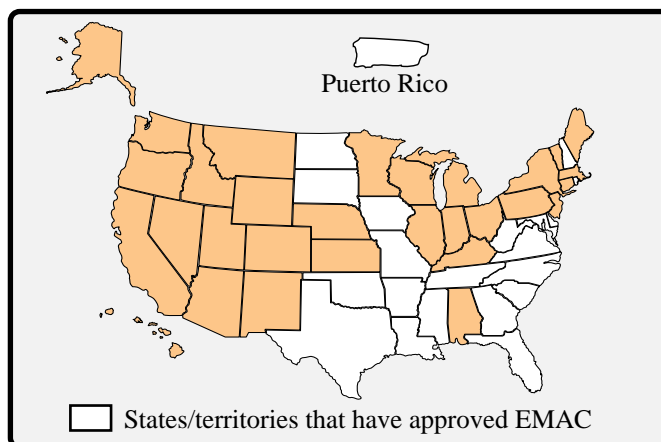
In a letter to NEMA, he said that the review process of state requests for presidential disaster declarations is not affected by the aid a state receives through EMAC.

A manual that sums up EMAC has recently been published by NEMA. Titled *The Emergency Management Assistance Compact Guidebook and Standard Operating Procedures*, the book establishes procedures to be used by states when requesting or providing assistance under EMAC.

The plan hinges on the deployment of advance teams (A-teams) from states providing aid to those requesting aid. Working from the

requesting state's EOC, A-teams are familiar with both EMAC procedures and their state's resources and can effectively coordinate requests for assistance. States are now working to pre-identify task forces that would be deployed by A-teams to localities within the affected state.

"Under the terms of EMAC, the
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EMAC including Virginia, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and West Virginia. Legislation is pending in Kentucky, Indiana, Maine and Minnesota.

"I think EMAC will add a different dimension that we're not used to," said VDES Regional Coordinator Wallace Twigg. "Different states have different systems that work in different ways. Bringing another state in is a whole new dimension that we'll have to plan for. It's a good idea, though, because of the availability of resources, not only in hardware, but in personnel. It will be very helpful to have additional experienced

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Tornado drill is statewide event

The whole family is together for once — watching TV, eating snacks, sharing some quality time — when the NOAA weather radio warns of an approaching tornado. You quickly gather everyone together and rush to the basement. Because you know your family is safe, your mind is at ease.

This perfect disaster response scenario doesn't reflect reality. Most likely, if a tornado were to strike, you and your spouse would be at work and the kids would be in school. What actions would you take in that situation?

In a first for Virginia's Severe Weather Preparedness Campaign, Governor Jim Gilmore has proclaimed March 24 to be "Tornado Preparedness Day." On that date, schools and businesses across the state can participate in a tornado drill, during which they learn how to receive and respond to a tornado warning.

"We've focused on the steps people need to take if they're at home when a tornado strikes. But often people are at work or school when tornadoes threaten

and we want them to know how to get to safety there, as well," said VDES Public Relations Coordinator Janet Clements.

"Similar to a fire drill, the tornado drill shows people how to plan, what to do and allows them to practice in a non-emergency situation."

NWS is providing the *School Emergency Planning Guide* to assist in outreach efforts and the VDES Public Information Office is offering a range of material on tornado preparedness. To heighten the

realism, on the tornado drill day, NWS will activate the NOAA Weather radio statewide at 10 a.m. with a test tornado warning.

"By encouraging schools and businesses across the state to participate in 'Tornado Preparedness Day,' we are helping people achieve a higher level of awareness and preparedness which ultimately saves lives," said Clements.

For more information or for some good campaign and outreach ideas, call Janet Clements at 804/897-6510, e-mail jclements.des@state.va.us



SIM/ITS offers opportunity to get involved

Statewide Incident Management/ Intelligent Transportation Systems

Spring Committee Meeting

March 31-April 2

Fairfax

Committee members seek to involve local government emergency services groups such as fire and rescue, law enforcement and emergency management.

The meeting examines two case studies from the perspective of incident management: the Nottoway River bus incident and a hazmat incident on I-81. Also featured are sessions on the use of VOIS and other technologies.

For more information, call Jon DuFresne at 804/786-2885, e-mail simcomm@erols.com

FEMA's 1997 disaster report

What's the report on disasters around the country last year? Although Hurricane Danny was the only Atlantic hurricane to make landfall in 1997, numerous violent storms, flooding, tornadoes and other extreme weather events left their mark on communities across the nation. Some noteworthy facts include:

- FEMA reported using more than \$1.38 billion in disaster funds assisting communities across the country;

- The president declared 43 presidential disasters last year that involved 27 states and three western Pacific Island territories;

- Through a federal interagency task force chaired by FEMA, more than \$2 billion in U.S. government assistance were delivered to Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota to assist with long-term recovery efforts after the massive Red River Valley flooding of last spring;

- The Red River Valley flooding, the Ohio River Valley flooding that impacted Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia in March, and January's severe winter storms in the west accounted for \$1.04 billion of FEMA funds expended on last year's presidentially declared disasters;

- Alabama suffered the brunt of Hurricane Danny's landfall, resulting in a major disaster declaration in July;

- Minnesota and Washington State received four presidential disaster declarations, South Dakota received three, and two each were received for Arkansas, Idaho, Illinois, North Dakota and Tennessee.

- Flooding figured in 29 of the year's declared disasters, severe winter storms accounted for eight, hurricanes and typhoons in four and tornadoes in three.



Mutual Aid

(continued from page 1)

requesting state agrees to reimburse the assisting state for the costs in providing such assistance," said VDES planner and EMAC committee member Bill Edmonson. "This takes the uncertainty out of the 'who pays?' question. EMAC also simplifies and clarifies issues of liability."

Murray Johnston, policy analyst for SGA, said, "This guidebook is useful to localities because they can see what kind of information they need to provide to the state under EMAC. The manual gives localities a clear idea of what is available to them through the compact and what they can offer to other states' jurisdictions in a disaster or emergency."

For more information about EMAC or for a copy of the guidebook, call Bill Edmonson at 804/897-6527.

HAZ MAT

New VDES Hazmat Officer appointed for Northern Virginia area

With 20 years' experience in public safety as a volunteer firefighter, volunteer EMT, command officer and career firefighter, Glen Rudner has worked his way from New York City to Virginia and he's never looked back. This March, Rudner comes on board the VDES Technological Hazards Division as Hazmat Officer for the Northern Virginia area.

"One of the most important lessons I've learned within the hazmat field is understanding the difference between being

committed versus simply being a contributor," said Rudner. "The committed person goes the extra yard, and my commitment to VDES is to ensure the safety of the hazardous materials responders and teams in the field."

Rudner began his career in emergency services in 1978 as a volunteer firefighter in Poughkeepsie, New York. He came to Virginia in 1986, joining Alexandria Fire and EMS as a paid firefighter.

Over the years, Rudner has been intensely involved in the development and delivery of programs and training to private industry, public utilities and government. He helped develop the Virginia Hazardous Materials Technician Program and coauthored the

Virginia Advanced Hazmat Control Program. In addition, he assisted with developing and delivering the 40-hour operations-level class to FBI agents for the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.

With an extensive background in railroad and highway emergency response, specialized team and radiological team operations, he most recently served as a Hazmat Specialist on the U.S. Department of Public

Health's Metropolitan Medical Strike Team. This multi-jurisdic-

tional, multi-agency task force provides medical support to the Washington D.C. area in the event of a terrorist incident involving nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

"The key ingredients in successful hazmat training are understanding what to do, how to do it and how to do it safely," said Rudner. When putting together hazmat training, Rudner explained, localities must know "how to develop, plan, implement and evaluate their programs. I plan to get out and meet with the local coordinators, fire departments and hazmat teams to let them know about the VDES programs, what the programs can offer and what I will be able to offer."



National conferences come to Virginia

Get ready to learn and network. In April, Norfolk and Virginia Beach are hosting two important conferences for the emergency services community. Both the National Hurricane Conference and the 13th Annual Conference on Technology in Emergency Management promise to deliver everything you wanted to know about technology and hurricanes.

National Hurricane Conference

The National Hurricane Conference, held in Florida for the past several years, is coming to Norfolk April 6-10. The workshops are relevant to coastal regions that would be directly impacted by a hurricane, communities threatened by the flooding preceding and following hurricanes and jurisdictions serving as inland sheltering locations in the event of mass evacuations.

Along with training opportunities offered by FEMA and the American Red Cross, the conference will seek to answer the question, "Is hurricane mitigation really worth the cost?" Some topics address practical, cost-effective ways to mitigate hurricane damage, rapid response to a hurricane disaster at the federal, state and local level and the "El Nino" influence on Atlantic hurricane development.

SALEMDUG Conference

In the 13 years since the State and Local Emergency Management Data Users Group (SALEMDUG) was founded, technology has permeated every aspect of life. SALEMDUG was originally

formed to foster awareness of technology and encourage its use in emergency management. Since 1984, however, its scope has dramatically expanded.

"When we began, the focus was on computers and that evolved to technology as a whole," said conference planner Mark Pennington.

The Technology in Emergency Management Conference, hosted by SALEMDUG, VEMA, VDES and FEMA, will bring you up to date on the technology that's out there, how to evaluate it and how to use it effectively.

In addition to a demonstration on robotics, topics include remote sensing systems such as IFLOWS, the VOIS intranet database, weather information technology, tips about GIS, emergency management technology on \$5-a-day, a cyberterrorism workshop and more.

"The emergency manager is primarily an information manager," said Pennington. "The more effectively we can gather and process information, the better we can become at protecting the lives and property of the people in our communities."

For information on the **National Hurricane Conference**, call **Jim Talbot at 757/441-5600**. To find out more about the **Technology in Emergency Management Conference**, call **Mark Pennington at 804/897-6532**.

SALEMDUG is sponsored by FEMA and partners with EIIP. For more information about this partnership, the conference and other topics, visit their Web site at <http://www.salemdug.dis.anl.gov>

Training Calendar



Operations Division

Emergency Action Planning for Dams, scheduled for March 11 in Leesburg, has been rescheduled for April as noted below.

Mass Fatality Incident Management

March 17-19
VDES in Richmond

Status Assessment Facilitators Workshop

March 24-25
VDES in Richmond

Instructional Presentation Skills

March 24-26
Fairfax

Status Assessment Facilitators Workshop

April 2-3
Lebanon

Emergency Action Planning for Dams

April 15 (rescheduled)
Loudoun County

Exercise Design

April 27-28
Lynchburg

Developing Volunteer Resources

April 29-30
Abingdon

ICS/EOC Interface

May 6-7
Waynesboro

Coordinators' Briefing

May 13-14
Culpeper
June 10-11
Chesapeake

Disaster Response and Recovery Operations

May 18-20
Manassas

Hazardous Weather and Flood Preparedness

May 5-7
Harrisonburg
June 2-4
Salem

Introduction to Emergency Management

June 17-19
Rockingham County

Basic PIO and Media Relations Workshop

June 24
Waynesboro
For information, call the VDES Training Office at 804/897-6559

Technological Hazards Division

Team Leader Annual Meeting

March 24-25
Newport News
(enrollment limited to members of state contract teams)
For information, call Greg Britt at 804/897-6578

Chemistry of Hazardous Materials

April 6-17
Roanoke

Advanced Hazardous Materials Control

May 11-15
Martinsville
For information, call the VDES Tech Haz Division at 804/897-6573

Search and Rescue

Managing Search Operations

March 20-22 (Part I)
April 17-19 (Part II)
Shenandoah County

SAR First Responder

April 3-5
Hanover County
For information, call Winnie Pennington at 804/674-2422

Conferences

National Hurricane Conference

April 6-10
Norfolk
For information, call Jim Talbot at 757/441-5600

1998 Annual Conference on Technology in Emergency Management

April 21-24, 1998
Virginia Beach
For information, call Mark Pennington at 804/897-6532

In conjunction with this conference, the following course is offered:

Cameo Workshop

April 21
For information, call George Roarty at 804/897-6574

National Search and Rescue Annual Conference

May 27-30
Portland, Oregon
For information, call Mylea Wade at 703/222-6277

Public Safety Educators' Conference

August 7-9
Richmond
For information, call Carolyn Sanford at 804/861-0263

••••• **VA hospital hosts presentation**

The Value of Emergency Planning

March 23, 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
McGuire VA Medical Center, Richmond

Recharge your batteries by attending an inspirational presentation on emergency planning. The event features Capt. Al Haynes, retired United Airlines pilot. He flew the ill-fated Flight 232 that crash-landed in Sioux City, Iowa in 1989. Excellent local response, built on good planning and training, helped ensure the survival of over half the passengers on board.

For information, call Mike Reik at 804/675-5515.



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